

REMARKS

Claims 1; 3; and 4 have been amended. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 3 to 5 remain in the application. Of these, claim 1 is the sole independent apparatus claim.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of these amendments and the following remarks.

The claims as filed stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based upon Edwards et al. (US 5,588,960). Claim 1 has been amended to define a catheter assembly that is neither taught nor suggested by Edwards.

More particularly, as amended, claim 1 defines a catheter assembly comprising a catheter tube that includes an operative element comprising a basket structure comprising at least first and second spines. As further defined in amended claim 1, each spine includes a flexible body defining at least two interior first and second lumens. A first one of the interior lumens of each first and second spine includes a fluid-conveying port. First and second elongated electrode elements slidably extend, respectively, through the second one of the interior lumens of the first and second spines. As further defined in amended claim 1, the catheter assembly includes a manifold body carried within the catheter tube. The manifold body includes a single main fluid junction coupled to a fluid source or a fluid destination external to the catheter tube. First and second fluid junctions are each individually coupled, respectively, to the first one of the interior lumens of the first and second spines.

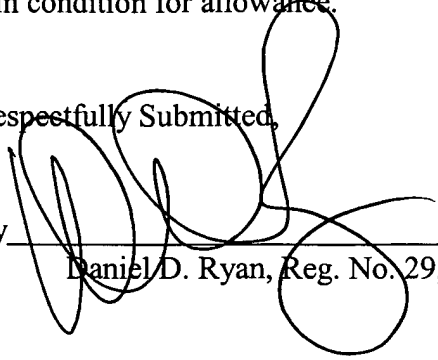
Edwards does not teach or suggest an operative element comprising a basket structure made of multiple lumen spines -- one lumen of each spine dedicated to fluid transport, and the other one of the lumens dedicated to accommodation of passage of an elongated electrode element. Edwards also does not teach or suggest further coupling each fluid transport lumen of each spine to a manifold, which conducts fluid transport to/from each lumen through a single main fluid junction coupled to a fluid source or destination.

Serial No. 10/760,433
Amendment A
Page - 6 -

Claims 1 and 3 to 5 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


Daniel D. Ryan, Reg. No. 29,243

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.
Post Office Box 26618
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226
(262) 783 - 1300
Customer No.: 58633